

Loser by Jerry Spinelli

1. Donald Zinkoff is a young boy who is about to start his first year of first grade. Before the day Donald gets into trouble because of how excited he is to start. With his mother not looking he takes off for school. Zinkoff is little to hyper and out of control and always needs to keep moving or he will get in trouble. Through school he has a problem with self- control and less neat but has a good-natured. At one point during second grade the students could have gone to work with parents but Donald couldn't because of his father was a mailman. At that point his father made a day just for him on a Sunday to pass out his own written letters. While in fourth grade Donald's teacher Mr. Yalowitz help discover who he was. Mr. Y knew how Zinkoff felt with having a last name at the end of the alphabet. So his teacher gave him a desk in the first row and gives Zinkoff a chance at field day where he would never before. Mr. Y gives him the anchor instead of the fastest kid on the team. In fifth grade everything changed but Donald doesn't know. With his bad habits "handwriting, grades, birthmark" so kids mock him and call him loser. But graduation day comes which this means Donalds moving on to elementary school where Donald is just another somebody and student. During winter he thought a little girl was missing and Donald went looking for her. Little does he know it they found her and everyone is looking for him for hours. Finally, in elementary school, Zinkoff is having trouble catching a football. Two student talk about him and how one of the students knew him and how he didn't really talk to Zinkoff; but the other student heard about how Donald tried to look for the little girl for hours in the cold and snow which the other student really wanted to know about.

2. The most interesting thing I found in this book was when Donald was in 4th grade where his teacher Mr. Yalowitz gave him the chance and opportunity to see what was really like in the front row. Donald was so excited and couldn't believe that he is there. I never believe that would happen to a student.
3. To me it compared to what I knew with kids bullying to other. They called names to students who were different or un-athletic compared to them. The students like Donald ways always excited to learn and just wants to be part of something but no one gave him a chance to express his thoughts and gets overlooked. While bored he always got in trouble and the students always help also to get that started. The new information I found interesting was how at the end of the book where Donald thought he was looking for the little girl and outlasted the cold and snow. Small community equals everyone knows about what happened. So the day after students really wanted to know about this and wondered even know students made fun of Donald.
4. I would recommend this book because people may relate to this book or know someone that was the kid like Donald. I like how it shows that Donald never gives up on what he is doing even though it may be an obstacle.